

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH
CLARK CLIFFORD

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE
WHITE HOUSE MARCH 4 FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH
HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, CLARK CLIFFORD.

2. BEGIN TEXT

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PAGE 02 STATE 049113

-- THE PRESIDENT MET TODAY WITH HIS SPECIAL EMISSARY TO THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN CLARK M. CLIFFORD, SECRETARY OF STATE
CYRUS VANCE AND ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT ZBIGNIEW BRZEZIN-
SKI. MR. CLIFFORD SBMITTED A REPORT REFLECTING HIS DISCUS-
SIONS IN GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS, AND HIS MEETINGS IN
VIENNA WITH UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM
AND IN LONDON WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN.

-- THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION TO MR. CLIFFORD FOR UNDERTAKING THE MISSION, AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MR. CLIFFORD'S CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY TOWARD THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THE PRESIDENT ALSO INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE LEADERS OF GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS FOR THE CORDIAL RECEPTIONS

THEY ACCORDED MR. CLIFFORD AND HIS PARTY, AND FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST FULLY AND FRANKLY WITH HIM.

-- MR. CLIFFORD TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY DESIRE IMPROVED AND STRENGTHENED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES EXPRESSED TO MR. CLIFFORD THEIR WISH TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES TO OVERCOME PAST DIFFICULTIES AND TO RESTORE CLOSE RELATIONS.

-- MR. CLIFFORD TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT, WHILE HE RECOGNIZE THAT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT WILL BE DIFFICULT, SOME FIRST STEPS TOWARD PROGRESS IN CYPRUS HAVE BEEN MADE, AND A SETTLEMENT IN 1977 IS POSSIBLE. THE LEADERS OF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES ASSURED MR. CLIFFORD THAT THEY INTENDED TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH, ON A SUSTAINED AND CONCRETE BASIS, COMMENCING WITH THE INTERCOMMUNAL MEETINGS IN LATE MARCH IN VIENNA. THE UNITED NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THE PARTIES WELCOMED UNITED STATES CONCERN AND INTEREST. THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND TURKEY ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION.
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PAGE 03 STATE 049113

TION FOR CONTINUING UNITED STATES INTEREST IN CYPRUS AND INDICATED TO MR. CLIFFORD THAT, FOR THEIR PART, THEY WILL SUPPORT THE FORTHCOMING INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA.

-- THE PRESIDENT AND MR. CLIFFORD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF ITS RELATIONS WITH GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS. WE SHARE WITH GREECE AND TURKEY A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES REMAINS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING A LASTING AND JUST SETTLEMENT FOR CYPRUS.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHE

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